

a) DNA comprising] a nucleotide sequence from the 190th position to the 807th position of <sup>the</sup> ~~a~~ nucleotide sequence represented in SEQ[.] ID NO[.] 1 [of Sequence Listing; or

b) DNA which hybridizes to DNA of a) under stringent conditions, and encodes a transcription factor capable of altering characters of a plant, wherein the characters of a plant include one selected from the group consisting of the height of a plant and the length of an internode].

2. (Twice amended). An isolated <sup>DNA molecule</sup> ~~gene~~ encoding [a transcription factor which is selected from i) or ii):

i)] a transcription factor [having] comprising an amino acid sequence from the 1st position to the 206th position of <sup>the</sup> ~~an~~ amino acid sequence represented in SEQ[.] ID NO[.] 2[, or

ii) a transcription factor having an amino acid sequence in which one or more amino acids of i) are subjected to deletion, substitution, or addition, and being capable of altering characters of a plant, wherein said amino acid sequence includes CSFCKREFRSAQALGGHMNVH and has more than 37% of amino acid sequence homology in the full-length amino acid sequence compared with the amino acid sequence of i), and wherein the characters of a plant include one selected from the group consisting of the height of a plant and the length of an internode].

~~11/18~~ (Amended). A method for altering characters of a plant, comprising steps of:

introducing the <sup>DNA molecule</sup> ~~gene~~ of claim 1 into a plant cell; [and]  
regenerating the plant cell into a transgenic plant; and  
selecting the plant having altered characters, wherein the characters of [a] the plant include one selected [prom] from the group consisting of [a] the height of [a] the plant and [a] the length of an internode.